

Preview

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Arizona,) we executed, we were able to keep them off balance, we were able to run the football and gave Joey great protection."

On the defensive side, the Ducks forced five Arizona turnovers that were all turned into Oregon touchdowns, but the defense still gave up a few big plays that led to scores, including a 78-yard run by Clarence Farmer.

"We're working on cutting down the mistakes, but I think we're making up for it with the turnovers," Mallard said. "Who knows what Cal will come at us with."

Cal

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young signal-caller just yet. California has had a history of developing great collegiate quarterbacks, a list that includes Pat Barnes, Mike Pawlawski and Steve Bartkowski.

One problem that has plagued Boller and the rest of the Cal offense is turnovers. The Golden Bear defense has been strong in forcing opponents to cough up the ball, but seemingly, the offense gives it right back. The team is last in the Pac-10 with a turnover margin of -13.

"Coach (Al) Borges, at least on the offensive side of the ball, talks about not saying right before they go out on the play 'Now hold on to the ball,'" Holmoe said about the team's offensive coordinator. "You have to examine why it happened. Sometimes it's a runner not changing the side that he holds the ball and getting hit on that side of the body. Or it's a receiver not securing it. Or it's a poor handoff, or even a running back that doesn't give a good target."

Key to Cal's offense will also be tailback Joe Igber. The junior from Hon-

Certainly, Cal offensive coordinator Al Borges, who is in his first year with the Bears after spending the previous five with UCLA, is respected for his smart game plans and ability to use his players effectively.

But Oregon players are confident that defensive coordinator Nick Aliotti will combat Borges with a winnable strategy of his own.

As for Bellotti, he just wants the scoreboard to show who the better team is when it's all said and done.

"I don't care how many yards we get, and I don't care how many yards our opponents get," he said. "I want points. That's what makes the difference."

olulu, Hawaii, has 202 yards on 58 attempts this season, but only 3.5 yards per rush. If he can break open against Oregon, Boller may have an easier day. But that's not likely to happen.

For that single reason alone, the Cal defense must step up against the Ducks. If there is a bright spot on this team, it's Holmoe's defense, but it is a deceiving unit. They rank third in the Pac-10 in rush defense, allowing only 119.2 yards per game on the ground, but the pass defense is at the opposite end of the spectrum.

Ranked last in the conference with 348.8 yards allowed per game, the Bears allow almost 50 more yards-per-game than the ninth place team, which happens to be the Ducks. If any game promises to be a wide-open shoot-out, this one would be it.

An extra week to prepare may help the Bears against the nation's No. 5 squad, but most likely not by much.

"I won't say that I feel much more confident, but I think the extra week of preparation has helped," Holmoe said. "I think for us, we needed that bye. We were able to heal up a little bit, lick our wounds, change our attitude and get ready to go."

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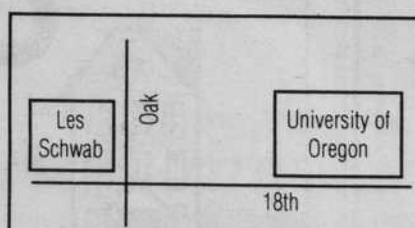
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